

FILM ESTIMATES

There is a high proportion of favorable estimates on these two pages because they reprint only the thirty best out of the hundred and fifty-odd estimates circulated by *The Educational Screen* since the last issue of this magazine.

LITERATURE AND HISTORY

ADVENTURES OF MARCO POLO (Cooper, Gurie, Rathbone) (UA). Another "colossal" in sepia. Big, long, lavish array of thrilling adventures, by turns interesting, amusing and absurd, faintly historical, with several fine roles. But ponderous, laboriously exotic, dramatically loose and overdone.

(A) Spectacular (Y) Doubtful (C) No

CALL OF THE YUKON (R. Arlen, B. Roberts) (Republic) Exciting, tense, fast outdoor melodrama in Alaska, based on a Curwood story. Superb scenery. Chief appeal are animal actors, the romance of collie and wild wolf-dog paralleling that of writer-heroine and trapper. Some scenes perhaps too violent for children.

(A) Unusual (Y) Good (C) Strong

CHARM OF LA BOHEME (German, English titles) (Intern. Cinemat) Vienna-made version of famous opera of consumptive Mimi, loving and loved by opera-tenor hero, in modern settings. Some obstreperous acting but mostly appealing and effective. Fine roles by Kiepura and Eggerth. Sound reproduction very good.

(A) Very good of kind (Y) (C) Hardly

DYBBUK, THE (Polish Cast) (Made in Warsaw) (Yiddish, fine English titles) Impressive picture in stately tempo expertly acted, of a tragic and beautiful love affair among humble, devout people. Strange mingling of tradition, religion, naive faith and superstition. Long, slow, difficult, but artistic and rich in human values.

(A) Unusual (Y) and (C) Entirely beyond them

KIDNAPPED (Warner Baxter, F. Bartholomew) (Fox) Stevenson's classic of Scottish rebellion under English rule, lamentably altered. Episodic tale of high, suspenseful adventure interwoven with love story. Less vigorous than book, but superb backgrounds and photography, expert characterizations in minor roles.

(A) Good but disappoints (Y) Good (C) Mature

MOTHER CAREY'S CHICKENS (F. Bainter, Anne Shirley, R. Keeler) (RKO) Expert screening of Kate D. Wiggin's simple, tender little tale of appealing family whose future depends on old mansion they remodel. Delightful blend of homely humor, pathos, pleasing romance. Fine performances, charming costumes.

(A) Very good (Y) Excellent (C) Very good

PENROD AND HIS TWIN BROTHER (Mauch Twins) (Warner) Starts as human, wholesome little comedy about boy-hero and pals, then comes sensational mix-up in gang-killing and hectic, preposterous climax of boys capturing gang in water-front hideout. Lively entertainment of its kind.

(A) Hardly (Y) Prob. entertaining (C) Dbfl.

PENROD'S DOUBLE TROUBLE (Mauch Twins, Gene Lockhart) (Warner) Far-fetched, implausible situation, with Penrod's double again causing ex-

citing complications involving entire community, but nice family relationships, amusing and entertaining child action, make it a worthwhile family film.

(A) Fair (Y) and (C) Good

RETURN OF THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL (Barry Barnes) (U.A.) Quite a pretentious English production relating further adventures of this character in France during Robespierre's reign. Inferior to Leslie Howard's Pimpernel in suspense, vigor, reality and general interest. Some impressive scenes, but the whole too theatrical.

(A) Fair (Y) Passable (C) Unsuitable

ROMANCE OF THE LIMBERLOST (Jean Parker, Eric Linden) (Monogram) Unskilled attempt at realistic portrayal of Gene Stratton Porter's sentimental story of humble life. "Swamper" heroine, ambitious to better herself—old-fashioned villain who holds mortgage—accidental killing—clumsy trial scene where hero saves all.

(A) Poor (Y) Harmless (C) Hardly

STOLEN HEAVEN (Olympe Bradna, Lewis Stone, Gene Raymond) (Para) Queer but delightful mixture of fine music deftly integrated into merry crook story, with strong human values despite distressing main situation. Bradna and Stone notable. Wagner, Strauss, Grieg, Liszt, Moskowski, fine antidote for "swing."

(A) Excellent (Y) Excellent (C) Probably good

THREE COMRADES (Margaret Sullavan, Taylor, Tone, Young) (MGM) In grim setting of social chaos in post-war Germany, three disillusioned pals find life struggle glorified by love of charming heroine who marries one. Staunch loyalty, deep devotion, heroic happiness and tears, heart-breaking tragedy beautifully done.

(A) Excellent (Y) Mature (C) Beyond them

TO THE VICTOR (Will Fyffe, John Loden) (G-B) Masterpiece of realism—real men, real dogs, real dramatic conflict—from Ollivant classic, "Bob, Son of Battle." Authentic shepherd life in Scottish highlands, tensely human, with human and canine roles equally fine. Scotch accent very thick at times.

(A) (Y) Excellent (C) Mature but good

WHITE BANNERS (Fay Bainter, Claude Rains) (Warner) Quietly dramatic, very human story of humility and self-sacrifice, told more in words than action, made credible and appealing chiefly by Fay Bainter's eloquent role. An unwed mother, her philosophy of faith and forbearance in adversity is the theme.

(A) Very good (Y) Good but mature (C) No

YELLOW JACK (Montgomery, Stone, Bruce) (MGM) Inspiring, moving drama of courage and self-sacrifice. Authentic, informative story of Major Reed's fight vs. yellow fever in Cuba after Spanish-American war and the five soldiers who volunteered for his experiments. Convincing roles. Fine ethical values.

(A) Notable (Y) Worthwhile (C) Beyond